

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of reducing portal hypertension in a patient in need of such reduction comprising administering to said patient a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide having nitric oxide synthase (NOS) activity under conditions such that said sequence is expressed and said reduction is thereby effected.
2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said sequence encodes neuronal NOS.
3. The method according to claim 1 wherein said sequence is present in a vector.
4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said vector is a viral vector.
5. The method according to claim 4 wherein said vector is an adenoviral, retroviral or adenoassociated viral vector.
6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said patient suffers from cirrhosis.

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid is administered via the femoral vein of said patient.